

[May 1965]

The Foggy Bottom News

THE VOICE OF FOGGY BOTTOM

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

Disturbing news to many Foggy Bottom citizens came in the revelation recently of city highway department plans to block pedestrian as well as vehicular crossing of K Street at 25th Street. The Association has objected to the project and highway officials have agreed to reconsider. A full and hopefully final report on the situation will be made at the next membership meeting of the Association Monday, May 31, at 8 p.m. in Pillsbury Hall.

As originally drawn, the K Street plans called for a 6 foot wide curb along the middle of K Street across 25th Street. This median strip would link those now in place in the Washington Circle underpass and the new ramp at 26th Street. From the end of the underpass to the middle of the 2500 block, the 8-inch high median strip is to be surmounted by a hedge of red-berried firethorn, approximately 2-1/2 to 3 feet high. There would be no passage through the hedge.

Thus pedestrians using 25th Street would have to cross K at 24th or, by tunnel, at 26th. The planned pedestrian undercrossing, along the west side of 26th under the K Street ramp, is intended to compensate for closing 25th Street.

The closing of 25th to pedestrians was decided upon because of the presumed hazard of a grade-level crossing. High-speed traffic will flow along K to and from the Whitehurst Freeway, flanked on both the north and south sides by service roads.

As the NEWS went to press, there were conflicting reports from different highway department sources as to the presence or absence of a traffic light at the corner. Without a light the intersection would be hazardous to any but through traffic on K.

In a meeting with Mr. R.D. Wallace, deputy director of the highway department, FBA Vice President Donald J. Carbone outlined the citizens' objections to the plan and proposed a pedestrian crossing at grade

level along the west side of 25th Street. The crossing could be controlled by a traffic light, permitting vehicles to turn right onto K from both the north or the south, as well as enabling pedestrians to cross. Mr. Wallace promised to review the entire matter and to indicate the department's decision before the May 31 FBA meeting.

Strong protests were voiced by persons in the vicinity when the department's plans became evident. A petition was proposed but its introduction delayed pending discussions between the Association and the department.

Blockage of the crossing could have a serious effect on Rosenblatt's Market on the northwest corner of 25th and K, and possibly also on nearby Pennsylvania Avenue stores and shops. Churchgoers to St. Paul's and St. Stephen's who normally cross K at 25th would be considerably inconvenienced, as would persons using the bus stop at Pennsylvania and 25th.

Even though it would be continually lighted, the underpass at 26th had little appeal to those hearing of the plan -- especially the ladies. Mr. Carbone suggested that a crossing at 25th would obviate the need for the underpass and save the city the tunnel cost.

Other projects to be reported on at the May meeting include the Potomac Freeway and the question of an air rights building over it north of H Street, the proposed traffic light at 23rd Street and the south arc of Washington Circle, paving plans for the area streets, and the temporary work at 26th and Eye.

FBA Meetings: Last Monday in each month.

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 31 -- 8 P. M.

Pillsbury Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2430 K Street, N. W.

PROGRAM

Special Report on highway construction projects in Foggy Bottom, including the proposed K Street median strip and hedgerow to block 25th Street (see accompanying article).

Foggy Bottom residents along the controversial stretch of K Street have been pleased by the city's tree-planting activities. The north side of the 2500 block of K is now adorned by 8 Norway maples. On the south side, four are in place, with four more to be added later because of building construction at 25th and K.

Now if FBA can only get rid of about 6 feet of thorn bushes . . .

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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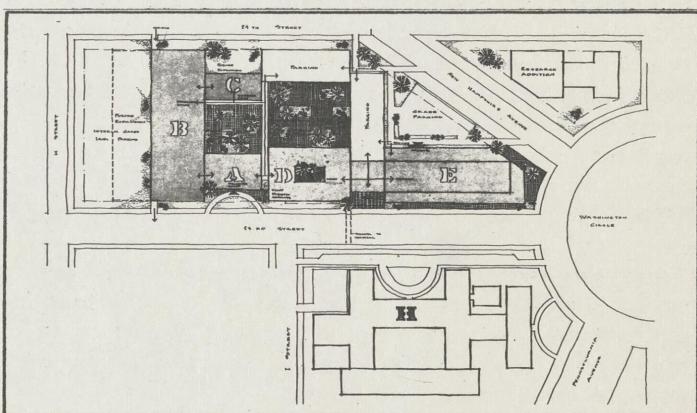
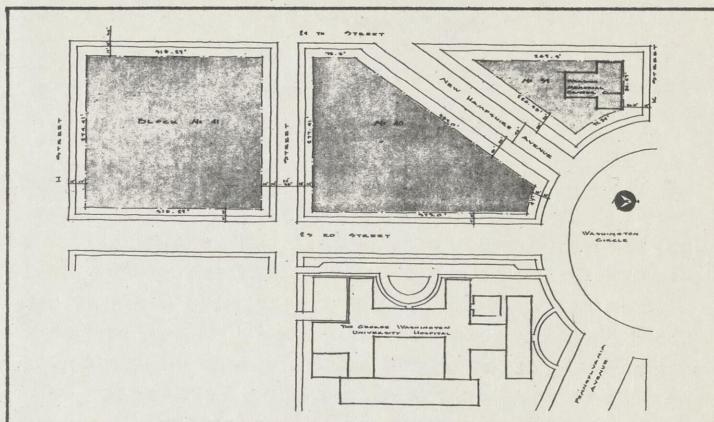
UNIVERSITY PROPOSES CLOSING OF EYE STREET FOR MEDICAL CENTER

The George Washington University has recently released a study which includes proposals for expansion of their medical center. The plans would close off Eye Street in the 2300 block. It would mean additional parking and less through traffic in Foggy Bottom. But it would also mean one less access route to the area, and more tall buildings.

It should be noted that this is some years in the future for the University and several zoning modifications would be required before construction began.

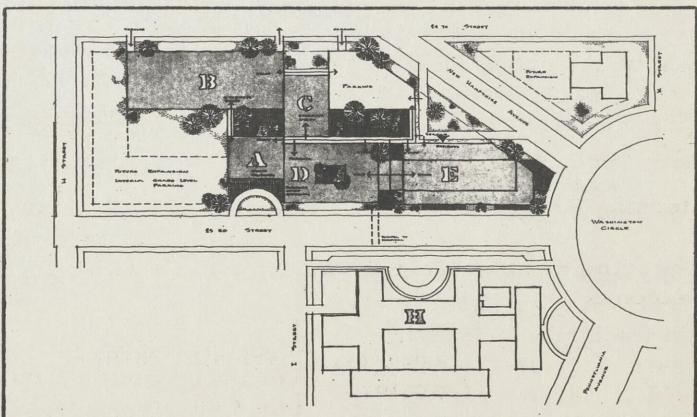
We will be discussing this proposal at one of our future meetings so you will be able to make your attitudes known. (The drawings in the next column present the University's Unit Relationships and Site Planning for this project.)

The Site for The George Washington University Medical Center. The existing hospital is shown at lower right, across an arterial street (23rd Street) from the site for new buildings in Blocks #40 and #41. I Street, a street with very low traffic density in this block, divides the new area; every effort will be made to effect closure of this section of I Street, since it will otherwise be impossible to develop the site logically. The Warwick Memorial, housing the University's Cancer Clinic and Cancer Research activities is shown in Block #39, at the upper right of the figure, separated from Block #40 by New Hampshire Avenue, a relatively quiet street.



Site Development—Alternate Plan A. The University Clinics (Unit D) and Doctors' Office Building (Unit E) face 23rd Street and are connected to the existing hospital by a tunnel. The placement of the units is such as to allow for future expansion of each unit without disturbing their interrelationships.

Site Development—Alternate Plan B. While quite similar to Alternate Plan A, Plan B locates the Resources (Unit C) as the hub of the new area. With this plan it will be easy to expand the Medical Sciences (Unit B) but expansion of other units will be difficult to achieve.



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Pin-pointing Foggy Bottom Problems,
Promoting Neighborhood Aims through Personal
Action Featured by Guest Speaker at FBA Meeting

What are the problems, needs, and issues of this community? What holds it together? Is physical development more important than social development? These are some of the questions raised and discussed by H. Curtis Mial, Associate Director of the National Training Laboratories, National Education Association, the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association.

Developing his theme from the broader questions, "Can we develop a participative society? How?", Mial asked those attending to divide into small discussion groups, select a spokesman in each group, and arrive at what they considered the chief problems of Foggy Bottom as a community. Five minutes was allotted for the discussion before he called on each spokesman to report his group's thoughts. The list of problems was expressed in terms of five needs:

1. need for home rule -- to stimulate willingness and means for individuals to express themselves
2. need for beautification, cleanliness
3. need for balanced zoning to provide mixture of high-rise and other buildings.
4. need for promotion of walking facilities, as for example easier street-crossing at Washington Circle (It was pointed out that this is a neighborhood of walkers.)
5. need for more public education facilities, to enhance the neighborhood's appeal to families with children.

In a second round of brief discussion in small groups, those attending were asked to form their ideas of the neighborhood's needs in terms of "people problems" rather than in terms of the physical environment.

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Spokesmen reported the following people problems:

1. transient people - don't get involved
2. isolationist tendency - apathy, and indifference (neighbors no longer meet over the garbage can)
3. lack of common interest
4. skewed age distribution - lack of families
5. need for nucleus of leadership
6. need to see community problems as individual problems
7. need for channels of communication
8. emphasis of the utilitarian vs. the personal
9. need for awareness of needs

Pointing out that each individual is a linking pin in the community, Mial said that leadership is essential. He mentioned two methods of guidance, using as an example how one could help an individual with a pressing problem: (1) by suggesting alternative courses to him, or (2) by questioning him to a point where he thinks out solutions for himself. Training is essential for community leadership, he said. As

(continued on page 4)

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THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Kiosk, Anyone?

The city isn't relying on nature alone to gussy up the landscape. The new rage is for kiosks. When talk started about introducing these to D.C. the Browser set to daydreaming. Why couldn't Foggy Bottom be first with one? The answer came lightning-fast when the city, with unaccustomed speed, put its posters where its plans were. Up went a kiosk downtown. It's a many-sided thing, gayly un-governmental, with maps to confuse the tourists and entertainment broadsides to tell them what will be in town when they're not. It's a success — a novelty but also a nice touch. May there be many more.

Like in the Bottom. Sites are no problem: the little triangle at Eye, 24th and New Hampshire ... or one of those along Pennsylvania at 24th and K, 25th and L ... or, later, in one of the hoped-for parks along the Freeway (Foggy Bottom East and Foggy Bottom West, as they've been unofficially dubbed to give the present dusty expanses an air of dignity). It needn't be fancy, perhaps just a simple cylinder under a conical roof, with room enough for Bottomites to post notices of meetings, of things to sell or buy or rent, or of special events in the neighborhood.

The city might be persuaded. Or, if all the red tape could be cut and enough do-it-yourself enthusiasts recruited . . . Voila!

Images and Imagination

Whether or not Foggy Bottom goes arty with kiosks, it's already proved itself an appreciative haven for artists. The Association's art show last year in the old St. Stephen's Hall was a great start. Now it has been topped by the Circle Art Show, put on by the Friends of St. Stephen in the newly remodeled church hall.

The Browser took in the show one day and can testify to the generally high quality of painting and sculpture on display. Works actually exhibited were only a fraction--the best--of those entered. It took a bit of imagination to fit some of the entries to the theme of "Love, Unity and Peace As Found In Scripture" - particularly the many abstracts. But all were well done. The judges--Alexander Russo and Don Turano--chose wisely, too. At least they pretty much agreed with the Browser's choices.

Getting to Know You

While a kiosk is a fine way to communicate with one's neighbors, it can't match actually meeting them. Here there are several possibilities, most of which have been suggested off-handedly and some of which may someday come to be; for example,

a welcoming committee?

a potluck dinner (gourmet style)?

an FBA coffee house?

There's one get-acquainted activity which has several times proven itself: that annual swizzle and swelter social, the Area Party. The Browser's already working up a thirst. And loosening up the greeting hand.

Watch the NEWS for word.

-- The Browser



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St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church Washington, D.C.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, located on Twenty-third Street between G and H Streets, Northwest, is one of the landmarks of the old Foggy Bottom. It is preparing now for the celebration of its 100th anniversary, two years hence in June, 1967. St. Mary's is an unbroken array of charming and quaint red brick structures with sanctuary, church offices, parish hall, and rectory spreading in succession along the west side of the street behind well-kept lawns. In contrast with the present imposing appearance of St. Mary's and its environs, a contemporary described this same location and neighborhood in the early days in these words, - "The lone frame church building stood on a clay-bank without any signs of improvement. The street in front of the church was paved with cobble stones, strewed with broken bottles. Just two doors from the church was a most disgusting-looking saloon. Empty liquor barrels were allowed to litter the sidewalk. Men at various stages of intoxication sat or lounged on these barrels. Not far away was another saloon, where several murders had been committed. Hardly a stone's throw from the church were numerous inhabited courts and alleys which harbored crime and wrongdoers." Such was the old Foggy Bottom.

On the whole the neighborhood did not seem inviting for a church. But such conditions were not dis-

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couraging to those who were earnest about founding a church of their own. They entered the neighborhood and tried to clean it up. They have continued steadfastly in this course in spite of discouragement, obstacles, and difficulties extending over nearly one hundred years. The chronicle of this perseverance is the History of St. Mary's Episcopal Parish in the City of Washington. It is a saga of home meetings to Parish.

FROM HOME MEETINGS TO PARISH

In 1866 a group of colored communicants of Church of The Epiphany took the initiative for the organization of a separate congregation. Much spade work had been done the year before, 1865, in the form of cottage meetings at the homes of interested parties, who served as hosts. Meetings of this purpose were held at the homes of Mrs. M. Stewart on Ridge St.; Mr. C. F. Murray on K Street near Sixth St.; Mrs. Harrison on Massachusetts Avenue near Twelfth St.; and Mrs. Hawkins on N Street near Fourteenth St. These communicants wanted a church which they could call their own. It was a matter of pride, and a desire to prove themselves in the exercise of their newly found freedom. The Rector of Church of The Epiphany, Dr. Charles H. Hall, became interested, attended many meetings with the group, and advised with respect to the procedure necessary for the formation of a separate congregation. Dr. John Vaughn

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Lewis, Rector of St. John's Church, was brought into the conferences. Minutes of meetings held in the Hall of the Church of the Epiphany bearing dates from December 6, 1866, and on during the first part of the year 1867, show Dr. Hall and Dr. Lewis to be in continual conference and cooperation in seeking a location for the building of the proposed church.

THE FIRST CHAPEL

During December 1866 and the first part of 1867, as the outcome of the good offices of Dr. Hall and Dr. Lewis, the use of a surplus frame chapel attached to the Kalorama Army Hospital was offered by the Secretary of War in the Lincoln cabinet, Edwin M. Stanton; and Mrs. Catherine Pearson, a parishioner of St. John's Church, offered use under free tenancy of a lot on 23rd Street between G and H Streets, N. W., for its re-location. A convocation of certain clergy with Dr. Hall presiding as Dean, concurred in the acceptance of both offers. And so, the church structure for the new congregation became located within the boundary of St. John's Parish. The Pearson lot was documented in later years as being South part of Lot 13, in Square 42, D. C.

The first Divine Service held in the new chapel was the celebration of Holy Communion on the Second Sunday in June, 1867. Both Dr. Hall of Epiphany and Dr. Lewis of St. John's officiated. Thereafter, active supervision of the new mission, which for the first several months was known as the St. Barnabas Mission and from that time as St. Mary's Mission, was exercised by Dr. Lewis, Rector of St. John's Church. Mr. Edward Kinney, a lay reader and communicant of St. John's Church was placed in local charge.

(Prepared by Robert Nicholas Mattingly, Parishoner, 1965.)

ST. MARY'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Holy Communion	7:30 A. M.
Church School	9:30 A. M.
Holy Eucharist & Sermon 1 & 3	11 A. M.
Morning Prayer & Sermon 2 & 4	11 A. M.

The Church of the Community for all with a big welcome.

The Rev. Charles E. Miller
Rector

CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN MARTYR 2436 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

The "Friends of St. Stephen" wish to thank all who have participated in the Circle Art Show held at St. Stephen's Church Hall, during the early part of May. We wish to also thank all those who have come to our exhibit. It was a grand success.

St. Stephen's Church will have a Novena in honor of the Sacred Heart June 17th to June 25th. All are welcome!

Sunday Masses: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12:10, and 12:55

Weekday Mass: 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.

Monday evening Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Confessions Saturday: 4 to 6 and 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

All Are Most Welcome!

Rt. Rev. Joseph F. Denges
Pastor

FOGGY BOTTOM VIGNETTE

A young woman attorney newly appointed to a State Department office, arrived in Washington last October and began looking for an apartment in Foggy Bottom convenient to her new job.

She went first to a modern apartment building on Pennsylvania Avenue which had a one-bedroom apartment vacant. However, she was told that a present tenant in an efficiency might want a larger apartment and would have priority. The young woman said she was willing to take an efficiency in that case, until another larger apartment became available. She was then told there was a waiting list.

Her next stop was a large building on New Hampshire Avenue. There was an apartment vacant which she was told might be available, but a lady in New York who used to live there might be returning to Washington and want the apartment. When the young woman returned later, she was told the New York lady had decided to take the apartment. Two months later it was still vacant.

At a third building, a recently built cooperative on Virginia Avenue, she was told there were two apartments available but that all prospective tenants must be approved by the Board of Directors. The Board failed to approve her application.

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THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

She finally succeeded in leasing an apartment in a new building near Dupont Circle.

This young woman is a Negro. Her unsuccessful attempts to find an apartment in Foggy Bottom raised the question:

"Is the D. C. Fair Housing Regulation being complied with in Foggy Bottom?"

Residents who held a series of meetings during March and April to discuss this question have formed a fair-housing group. Their aim is to assure that Foggy Bottom housing be available to all without regard to race, color, or creed.

Interested readers are encouraged to fill out and return the following form:

TO: Foggy Bottom Fair Housing Group
c/o MRS. RICHARD YEO
1015 - 24th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. (Phone 338-8837)

- I agree with the aim of the Foggy Bottom Fair Housing Group.
 I would like more information about the group.

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NATURE NOTES

If you hear a swish of wings, feel a light peck on the back of your head, then see a streak of grey and white swoop down and peck the rump of your dog, this will be the mockingbird, whose numbers seem to have increased in Foggy Bottom.

But if the mocker is a terror in defense of its rights (including attacks on dogs, cats, and sometimes the people leading these), it is also one of the sweetest singers in all North America and is a remarkable mimic of the sounds of other birds and even of a musical instrument. It builds its nest in protected bushes of sticks, stems, and trash.

The mockingbird can more than hold its own with the aggressive starling becoming too populous in the city. It can be attracted to your feeders with bread, sliced apples, dried currants, chopped seeded raisins, nuts, suet, and doughnuts. It feeds on holly berries, grapes, smilax and other berries throughout the winter.

Special artistry in arrangements has been observed in some of the smallest of front yards. Just note a few -- those of 2402, 2404, and 2406 Eye Street -- with boxwood borders and small annuals, the mixture of boxwood and fern with gay blooming flowers at 906 (?) 25th, and the clever pattern of plants at 2504 Eye. On the larger scale, the corner of Eye and 25th is an eye-catcher with its brick terraces and planters of annuals and trimmed evergreens. Then, take a look at what was a wilderness of weeds not too long ago and now a gay blending of color and soft ground cover at 824 - 25th.

In contrast, some of the yards in the 800 block of New Hampshire appear to be returning to wasteland from complete neglect. The recently landscaped Channel House area is a jungle of weeds on one side and a rock pile on the other side. The center 'front' shows evidence of plant poisoning from fumes.

This area, which abounds in clay soil, needs to be improved for water absorption by adding sand to the clay and humus mixture. To block summer evaporation, mulch should be added as a cover. In addition to the commercial mulches available, make use of your cut, dried grass. Azaleas can be effectively mulched for summer dryness by use of evergreen trimmings.

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